

## **J. Clair Batty**



Dr. Batty is currently a Trustee Professor and Department Head of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, a Senior Fulbright Scholar, and the Utah Engineering Council's 2003 Engineering Educator of the Year. At the end of June, Professor Batty will retire following 38 years of dedicated service to Utah State University. His research has spanned an impressive range of subjects: For example, during the early days of space exploration only empirical models existed to determine the rate at which space vehicles would burn up on re-entry. Dr. Batty's model of the chemical interactions of gases with hot surfaces, which allowed the calculation of metal evaporation rates during reentry, was considered a major step forward for the engineering design of spacecraft. Later, he turned his attention to the thermal management of space-borne infrared instruments—moving from incandescent surfaces to the world of cryogenics. Closer to Earth, he was also a pioneer in the anaerobic digestion of agricultural waste, and in the use of reverse osmosis to separate lactose from cheese whey.

Although he has played a major role in winning and engineering satellite programs funded at nearly \$100 million, Dr. Batty has never compromised his love of teaching. The recipient of numerous teaching awards, he has mentored more than 60 MS and Ph.D. students during the course of his career, many of whom have gone on to make important contributions themselves in areas ranging from solar energy to extended-life light bulbs. His peers write of national conferences at which Professor Batty and his students have been the center of attention for their innovative and pioneering work.